A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

Saturday, March, 9. 1706.

THE Cruelty of our Laws againſt Debtors, without Diſtinction of Honeſt or Diſhoneſt, has been the Subject of our laſt: that it is *the Shame of our Nation*, I have made too plain already; I am now upon proving, 'tis the Injury and Detriment of the Publick.

This is plain, *firſt*, by the Numerous Families that now Live in Exile, in all the Foreign Countries in *Europe*, Baniſh'd from their Native Country, Relations and Employments, for Debt; Frighted away by the Terrors of *Perpetual Impriſonment*, a Severity, no Chriſtian Nation ever Inflicted before; here they Live, and firſt ſpend the Eſtates of their Creditors, which they would Honeſtly have deliver'd; up, if it would have been accepted; but being refus'd in ſuch Fair and Sincere Propoſals, what muſt they do? *Mankind cannot be Starv'd*, that is, they cannot bear it, and will rather run all Extremities, than venture it.

Nor is the Loſs of People, and Loſs of Stock to the Publick, all the Caſe here; but theſe People, having been bred up to our Manufactures, live Abroad, where they Inſtruct the Nations we Trade with, to make our Goods, Circumvent, and Anticipate our Trade, and weaken us at Home; and one Family thus Driven Abroad, helps to Ruine a Hundred Families at Home. How many Ruin'd Tradeſmen and Artiſts have we now in *Scotland*, Teaching and Inſtructing the *Scots*, in their New Improvements of our Woollen Manufacture? How many in *Germany* and *Holland*, Informing them, how to Make, Dreſs, and

Manage

Manage the Cloathing, and Supplant our Trade? And what Progress they have made in these Things among our Neighbours, may perhaps be consider'd by it self.

Would any Nation but *England*, drive such People as these away, and refusing to accept of their all, Honestly offer'd in Payment, force them upon Shifts and Extremities, and send them among Foreigners, to Assist them in Ruining our Trade?

Would you, Gentlemen, of the House of Commons, effectually Suppress that Scandalous Sanctuary of Thieves, *the Mint*, where Honest Men are made Knaves, and Knaves harden'd to all manner of Villanous degrees; the most effectual Method in the World, would be to open a Door of Refuge for Debtors, *in the Compassions of the Law*, that Men of Integrity and Principles may be Encourag'd to *run to*, their Creditors, and not *run from them*; and this is so Crying a Wound, so calling an Exigence, that you can never obtain the Name of Patriots, nor, *Pardon me for saying it*, in my weak Judgment, can you you Honourably discharge the Trust Repos'd in you by your Country, if you Omit the needful Redress, to a Grievance so fatal to the Nation.

For *Fraudulent Bankrupts*, Flagrant Rogues, such as by design'd Depredations upon Trade, Rob their Creditors, let them Dye the Death of a Thief, as they deserve; let the Severest Punishments, consistent with Humanity, be Contriv'd for them; let the Nation be Clear'd from the Terror of such Plunderers; but to Punish the Poor Men Ruin'd by them, equally with them, is just as if you should make it Felony to be Robb'd, and *Hang the Passenger with the Highwayman.*

I cannot but wonder, that such a thing as this should need any Explaining, and I never met with, or heard of one Objection against it in my Life, either within the House or without; I mean, *as to the Fact*, the Justice of a *Common Lenity*, to Men of Misfortune, and distinguishing them that are Honest, from them that are not.

If any Man shall say, this is hearing but one side, and Pleading only in behalf of the Multitudes of such People, who now Crowd our Prisons and Privileg'd Places, and that it is not spoken for the Service of Trade in general: I Answer; I am satisfi'd, 'tis easie to get a Petition Sign'd to the House of Commons in this Case, by a Hundred Thousand Tradesmen now Flourishing, and who in the Common Appearance of things, even to their own knowledge, are out of Danger, of any thing, as to themselves; the Grievance is Common and Publick, and every Honest Man has a share in it.

But some tell us, 'tis impossible to make a Law, that shall relieve those, who by their past Misfortune, are already Involv'd in Misery, and encumber'd in these Grievous *Labyrinths*——If that be so, 'tis very hard to make Men more Criminal, because they fell into the Pit, a Year or so before their Neighbours; this would be singling out some Men from the rest, and making Difference of Persons, without Difference of Crimes; for as it was no more Criminal for a Man, to Break last Year, if Necessitated by Misfortune, than it will be for a Man to Break next Year, under the same Distress; 'tis hard, he that fail'd last Year shall be Ruin'd, and he that fails next Year be Sav'd.

But that such a Law may make no Distinction of Persons, it seems but just, that all such Unhappy People, who are Honestly willing to Surrender all their Effects to their Creditors, should be Compassionately provided for alike, whether past or to come; or if past Debtors shall not be Reliev'd as to Insolvency, and Enabled to try the World for their Fortunes, Families, and Creditors, th n at least, that the Murthering Law of Perpetual Imprisonment, be Restrain'd from such, and they be Restor'd to the Benefit of the *Habeas Corpus* Act, which is the General Privilege of *Englishmen*, and which if they are depriv'd of, they are Condemn'd as Criminals, to a Misery worse than Death; and of which I admire, that none of those now

in

in Prſſon on that Act, and who can never hope for Releaſe, do not Petition the Parliament for the Favour to be Hang'd.

In the behalf therefore of ſuch Poor Unhappy Families, who now Languiſh under this Diſtreſs; 'tis my Humble Prayer to Men that oppoſe theſe things, that they would conſider Humane Nature, and the Dreadful Calamity of a Lingering Gaol; we that are at Liberty cannot judge of it, but Man cannot covet Life, Lock'd up in a Cage like a Wild Beaſt, and they, who in ſuch Extremities forbear laying Hands on their own Lives, ſeem to have more Courage and Patience, or leſs Sence of Miſery, than other Men.

'Tis alſo no leſs ſtrange to me, to obſerve ſome Gentlemen, otherwiſe of Good Characters, and Good Judgment, Oppoſe the wholſom and Merciful Laws now on Foot, for General Relief, from the Private Concern, they have on their Hands, with ſome Capital Debtors of their own; 'tis hard, any Man that has the Service of his Country on his Hands, ſhould ſtoop to let his Private Intereſt Byaſs his Judgment, and his Concern with his own Debtor, Influence his Concern for a Publick Good.

To have a Gentleman ſay, I am againſt ſuch a Law, becauſe ſuch a Man owes me ten Thouſand Pound, is a good Argument of his own Judgment indeed, but whether it be a juſt reaſoning, ſuppoſing the Perſon Truſted with the Service of his Country in general, I leave to the Determination of better Judges than I.

However this plain Signification, ſuch a thing muſt have in it, *viz.* That what ſuch a Man ſays in that Caſe, can have no weight, which other Men, who in their conſidering, what ſuch Men ſay againſt this Law, cannot but remember, that his own ten Thouſand Pounds, lie at the bottom of his Argument.

Patriots are ſuch, as ſincerely purſuing the Publick Intereſt of their Country, act for the General Good, without Reſpect to their ſeparate Intereſt; 'tis true, it's hard to find ſuch in this Age——But without Offence, it may be ſaid, they who, give their Private Intereſt the Preference in Actions which concern the Publick Good, leſs deſerve the Name of Patriots than other People; and 'tis not doubted, but the end of the Authors will be ſo conſider'd, when they perſwade againſt Publick Good, for Private ends.

MISCELLANEA.

IF the following Caſe be true, as I have good Authority for; I need do nothing but Relate the Story, and leave any one to judge, what Havock ſuch dealing as this makes in Trade, and how ſeaſonable it is for Authority to Reſtrain the Exorbitances of Unmerciful Men.

SIR,

SInce you have undertaken of late, to ſhew the Horrid and Scandalous Abuſes, that are made of the Statutes of Bankrupts; I cou'd not forbear furniſhing you with a remarkable Inſtance of that Nature; the Truth of which, not only I, but ſome others will be ready to Vouch, to your Satisfaction, if there be occaſion.

A Young Man near Covent Garden, *was a Journyman to a Linnen Draper; his Maſter leaving his ſhop, Encourag'd him to take it, and truſted him to the Value of about* 1000 l. *ſome part whereof was Houſhold Goods. The Young Man was ſo Diligent, and throve ſo well, that in about a Year and a Halfs time, he Paid his Maſter upward of* 700 l. *of his Money, and yet, as appear'd afterward, has in Stock*

and

nd Credit enough to carry on his Trade, ut his Master pretending to be Inform'd, he was about to Break, comes, and very Furiously Demands the Remainder, using Threatnings withal, which put the Young Man to Great Extremities; and when he cou'd by no ways that are Honest, satisfie this his Voracious Creditor, he resolv'd to deliver all he had in the World, to his Creditors in general, that they might all fare alike; but in the interim, the first above mention'd Creditor, came one Night with another Person, and when one by a Stratagem, had got Admission into his House, they Cry'd out Murther, upon which a Constable, who was plac'd hard by for that purpose, by the Creditor aforesaid, came in.

This immediately reaching some others of his Creditors, they Arrested him in an Action of 300 l. *and makes his thus being in Custody, and his House pretendedly seiz'd, a ground to Swear him a Bankrupt, he having offer'd to surrender his Goods to them: Thus a Commission of Bankrupt is taken out against a Man, that was both willing to Pay, and had Goods enough to do it.*

The Consequence of this is; his Goods, which at the Cost Bought of these very Creditors, came to 700 l. *they Appraise at but* 400 l. *this join'd to his Book-Debts, come to near* 1000 l. *and he ow'd but* 1050 l. *in the World——Thus the Man was torn to pieces, turn'd out of Doors, Helpless and Friendless, tho' he had Committed no visible Act of Bankrupsie, and is effectually ruin'd; his Wife, he being Newly Married, turn'd Home to her Friends, and though they have his all, he is under their Lash, and can undertake no Business to get his Bread.*

He that did not owe above 50 l. *is now brought in several Hundreds in Debt, beside, the having of a Statute of Bankrupt, standing in Force against him, which like Death, seizes and swallows all, without the least Mercy or Compassion.*

ADVERTISEMENT.

RHOMBI SCOLETEINI: Or, the Lozenges for Killing Worms. These Lozenges are not only effectual in that Distemper, but are so in all Scorbutick Cases; Loss of Appetite Loathsomness to Meat; Pains in the Head and Stomach; they expel the Gravel, help the Dropsie, Gout, and Rheumatism, Cure the Ague, and are an excellent Cleanser after Small Pox, Meazles, and Child-Bearing. Prepared only by *Ralph Owner*, Apothecary, at the Pestle and Mortar, next door but one to the Crown, near the May-Pole in *East-Smithfield*.

ANnti-Arthriticon, or Gout Antidote, now altered and exalted to the highest degree of Perfection. The great Relief and Ease this noble Secret (by bathing) has been experienced to give to Thousands labouring under the most excruciating Pains of the Gout and Rheumatism, is wonderful; but now it is improved, it may truly be acounted a miraculous Medicine, for in less than half an Hour, it will infallibly take away the most tormenting and cruel Pains, giving immediate sensible Relief, and quickly perfect Ease; It makes any intense, sharp, or violent Pain, vanish perfectly, as it were by Enchantment. *Note*, it prevents the Gout from returning into the Stomach, beyond any other thing, and in many ases is good to he taken inwardly. Sold only at Mr. *Alcraft's* a Toy-Shop at the *Bluecoat-Boy* against the Royl *Exchange* in *Cornhil*, and at Mr. *Brooks's* a *Stationer* at the *Ship* near the *May-Pole* in the *Strand*, at 3 s. 6 d. a Bottle with Directions.

Next Week will be Published,

Synopsis Palmariorum Matheseos: Or, a New Introduction to the Mathematics, containing the Principles of Arithmetic and Geometry Demonstrated, in a short and Easie Method; with their Application to the most Useful Parts thereof: As, Resolving of *Equations*, *Infinite Series*, making the *Logarithms*; *Interest*, *Simple* and *Compound*; the chief Properties of the *Conic Sections*; Mensuration of *Surfaces and Solids*; the Fundamental Precepts of *Perspective*; *Trigonometry*; the Laws of *Motion* apply'd to *Mechanic Powers*, *Gunnery*, &c. *Designed for the Benefit, and adapted to the Capacities of Beginners.* By *William Jones*. Printed for *Jeffery Wale*, at the *Angel* in St *Paul's* Church-Yard, 1706.